

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3-10 remain in this application. Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

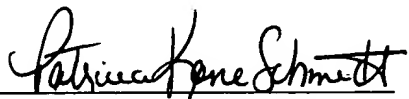
In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8 and 9 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,049,601 to Orui ("Orui"). In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Orui and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,807,279 to McClure et al. ("McClure"). In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 5 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Orui and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,729,599 to Plomondon et al. ("Plomondon"). In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 10 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Orui and in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,873,717 to Davison et al. ("Davison"). In light of the amendments to the claims as outlined in this Amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that such rejections have been obviated.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 6 and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that claims 3, 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended the claims according to the Examiners comments as outlined in this Amendment, and therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6 and 7 of the present application, as amended, as well as claims 4-5, and 8-10 which depend therefrom, are novel and non-obvious over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Patricia Kane Schmidt

Reg. No. 46,446

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4363

Dated: June 30, 2004